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NUT TREE CATALOGUE

SPRING 1958

39th Year

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Hardy, Fast Growing, Early Producing, Native & Foreign Varieties

HEBDEN H. CORSAN

Grower of Hardy Nut Trees

Hillsdale, Michigan

R. R. 1

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

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Plant Nut Trees For Pleasure, Beauty, Shade And Profit

They will grow in practically any type of soil, their hardiness, rapidity of growth, form, foliage, timber, longevity, productivity, and the fact they take little or no care makes them most interesting and desirable, greatly enhancing the value of city property, country estates, golf clubs, parks, farms, etc. Stock herein listed is the result of many years experimentation and of guaranteed proven quality. Extensive plantings are in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, and other northern states. Our trees do equally as well below the Mason Dixon line,

There are hundreds of varieties of northern nut trees, the following have been found most suitable and popular and should give a tree planter a good start or further add to his collection.

CIRCASSIAN WALNUT, KING OF NUT TREES—a paper shell Persian or English Walnut (*Juglans Regia*). This tree grows in many parts of the world; the hardiest is found in Russia, Poland and Northern Carpathian mountains where winter temperatures at times drop to more than 40 degrees below zero. It was from these countries that the original stock was brought to Canada some 20 years ago and since propagated in our nursery here in Michigan. The trees have a battleship gray colored skin, leaves large, glossy and nicely scented. Nuts vary in size from that of the California English walnut to twice this size. Nuts fall free of hull. In Canada this variety has been a heavy producer and thousands are now growing in many of the northern states. Becomes a large tree. Growth rapid. Early bearing. Strong vigorous.

Full fibrous rooted trees 12-18 in. \$1.25, 3 for \$3.45; 1½-2 ft. \$1.95, 3 for \$5.40; 3-4 ft. \$3.95, 2 for \$7.30, 3 for \$10.65.

CHINESE SWEET CHESTNUT (*Castanea Mollissima*) blight resistant from the Tientsin district northern China. For two weeks of early summer this tree is a riot of yellow blossoms. Grows fast. Nut is larger and just as sweet as our native sweet chestnut which the blight has killed throughout the country. The blossom, foliage and fruit of this tree make it worthy of a place on any property. Hold their golden brown dried leaves during winter. Tree grows 20 to 35 feet. Not selfpollinating, therefore more than one must be planted to produce nuts, preferably three or more. The late Mr. C. A. Reed, Asst. Pomologist U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Beltsville, Md., stated that the parent chestnut trees of our nursery stock were of pure strain, heavy consistent bearers of large, highest quality sweet nuts.

3-4 ft. \$2.45, 3 for \$6.90

GIANT HICKORY (*Carya Lacinosa*). A pure shellbark. This tree produces largest hickory in the world, three times larger than the average. Growth rapid, leaves a nice glossy green and very large. During spring buds open in the form of a flower of the orchid type, displaying delicate pastel shades, large caliper. Sturdy trees.

4-5 ft. \$3.75, 2 for \$6.70; 5-6 ft. \$4.25, 2 for \$7.70; 6-7 ft. \$5.25, 2 for \$9.70; 7-8 ft. \$6.25, 2 for \$11.70

BUTTERNUT (*Juglans Cinerea*). The well known butternut of boyhood days, it has almost passed from the landscape, help perpetuate this tree. Grows and looks similar to black walnut, leaves larger, nut large and conical shaped. Texture of shell about same as black walnut. Many prefer the rich nutritious flavor to all other nut meats. Stock we now offer is fast growing, early bearing

4-5 ft. \$1.95; 5-6 ft. \$2.75; 6-7 ft. \$3.75

JAPANESE WALNUT (*Juglans Sieboldiana*). This tree grows thriftily and bears precociously and heavily. In rich soil the leaves are sometimes a yard in length, giving it an oriental or tropical appearance. Nuts are large, almost round, grow in clusters of five or more, flavor butternut. Reaches a height of 30 to 40 feet. Makes a beautiful lawn and shade tree. These trees are sturdy and dug with practically all roots. We recommend two or more for pollination.

4-5 ft. \$1.95, 2 for \$3.60; 5-6 ft. \$2.95, 2 for \$5.50; 6-7 ft. \$3.95, 2 for \$7.25; 7-8 ft. \$4.50, 2 for \$8.00; 8-9 ft. \$5.25, 2 for \$9.75

JAPANESE HEARTNUT (*Juglans Cordiformis*). A hybrid. Tree grows and looks the same as Japanese walnut other than nut and kernel is heart shaped, thinner shelled which easily opens in two halves. Meat is one solid piece, can be removed with fingers, same butternut flavor, early bearing.

5-6 ft. \$3.95, 2 for \$7.50; 6-7 ft. \$4.95, 2 for \$8.90; 7-8 ft. \$5.50, 2 for \$10.00

NORTHERN PECAN. This tree like the hickory seems to grow and live forever. Makes a clean specimen tree for the lawn affording an abundance of shade. Leaves long of a light glossy pastel green. Produces a delicious medium sized thin shelled nut. The trees we offer are sturdy and of large caliper.

4-5 ft. \$3.25, 2 for \$6.00; 5-6 ft. \$4.25, 2 for \$8.00; 6-7 ft. \$4.95, 2 for \$8.90; 7-8 ft. \$5.65, 2 for \$10.30; 8-9 ft. \$6.65, 2 for \$12.30; 9-10 ft. \$7.65, 2 for \$14.30; 10-11 ft. \$9.65

AMERICAN HAZEL (*Corylus Americana*). A beautiful bush producing a good size, delicious nut. Grows 6-7 ft. Fall foliage is of various shades of scarlet and bronze. Fine for clusters and hedges, planted 2 ft. apart they fill in. More than one should be planted to insure proper pollination. Well rooted sturdy branched stock.

2-3 ft. \$1.50, 3 for \$4.20; 6 for \$8.10; 9 for \$11.70

ALMOND (Hall's). You will like this beautiful flowering tree. The pink five-petalled blossom is like a peach blossom. Hall's northern grown almond is hardy, rapid growing and young bearing, producing high quality, soft shelled nuts that can be grown anywhere peaches grow. Leaves are large, serrated and dark green, tree reaches a height of 25 ft. and with a little care should bear for forty to fifty years. This tree is self-pollinating but we advise planting two or more. Planting distance 15 ft.

3-4 ft. \$2.60, 2 for \$4.90, 3 for \$7.20; 4-5 ft. \$3.25, 2 for \$6.20, 3 for \$9.15

BEECHNUT (*Fagus Americana*) makes a beautiful specimen tree. Color of bark, battleship gray. Nuts can be opened with knife. More than one should be planted for cross-pollination to insure nuts being filled out. This variety grows as fast and to the dimensions of the large oaks

3-4 ft. \$1.25, 3 for \$3.35

BLACK WALNUT (*Juglans Nigra*). Variety Thomas—This tree and nut has been acclaimed the best black in the world from every standpoint; rapidity of growth, size of crops and nut, thinness of shell, kernels crack out mostly in whole halves, flavor incomparable. Special grafted. Should bear third year

3-5 ft. \$4.25

FILBERT OR EUROPEAN HAZEL (*Corylus Avellana*). Those with large or small space will do well to plant this small fruitful tree. It's shape and beautiful large, almost round leaves are outstanding. Grows to a height of 10 to 15 feet. Growth is rapid and crops heavy. Planting distance, 10 to 15 ft. More than one variety must be planted for cross-pollination. We have the DuChilly and Barcelona varieties. These trees produce an abundance of large, delicious nuts. Those we now offer are branched, full fibrous rooted transplants, bearing.

3-5 ft. \$4.25, 2 for \$8.00

HICCAN (hybrid) A magnificent tree, cross between hickory and northern pecan. Beautiful shiny foliage, nuts large thin shelled, flavor delicious. Plant two varieties for pollination. We offer the Burton and Burlington varieties, special grafted. Grows faster than hickory or pecan. Early bearing

3-4 ft. \$5.75 each

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The name "Circassian" is our trade name for the various varieties of the Carpathian strain. We did have 90 varieties of Carpathians. This number was cut to four of the best.

TRANSPLANTING TIME—

Nut trees should be transplanted only in spring or fall when dormant.

BEARING AGE—

Hardy varieties of nut trees come into bearing six to eight years from seed, with the exception of hickory and pecan. These should bear as soon as the slower varieties of apples.

COMMERCIAL ORCHARD PLANTING—

We recommend four varieties; paper shell Carpathian English walnuts, Chinese blight resistant sweet chestnuts, Thomas black walnuts and filberts. Figure a 20% discount when ordering any variety by the hundred lot.

GROWTH OF NUT TREES—

The Juglan varieties (meaning walnut) when planted in good soil and properly watered should average 3 feet of growth the second year after transplanting and continue at this rate to height of 25 feet or more. During this time side branches should average one foot a year. Other varieties grow slightly slower.

CROSS-POLLINATION—

Nut trees are fruit trees and should be planted and cared for as such, except spraying. This is very seldom necessary. Most varieties are self-pollinating but like other fruiting trees, produce more regularly and larger crops if cross-pollinated by the same specie. Sweet Chestnuts and Filberts are definitely not self-pollinating.

LENGTH OF SEASON FOR CROPS—

Most nut trees need 125 growing days between spring and fall frosts to properly fill out the nuts.

PLANTING DISTANCE—

Nut trees should not be planted closer than 25 feet, much farther is better. Filbertnut trees as a hedge 6 feet, otherwise 10 feet. Hazel bushes as a hedge, 3 feet, as clumps 4 feet.

FUTURE CATALOGUES—

If you wish further catalogues please drop a card as we do not maintain a mailing list.

The many orders received by us each year from friends and neighbors of our customers testify to the virility of our stock and the careful way it is dug and packed for shipment. Quantity of stock listed is limited, therefore, we ask that you send your order early. Planting instructions sent on receipt of same.

Terms—Cash or 50% with order, balance C.O.D. Shipments F. O. B. Hillsdale, Mich. Spring orders accepted until April 17th.

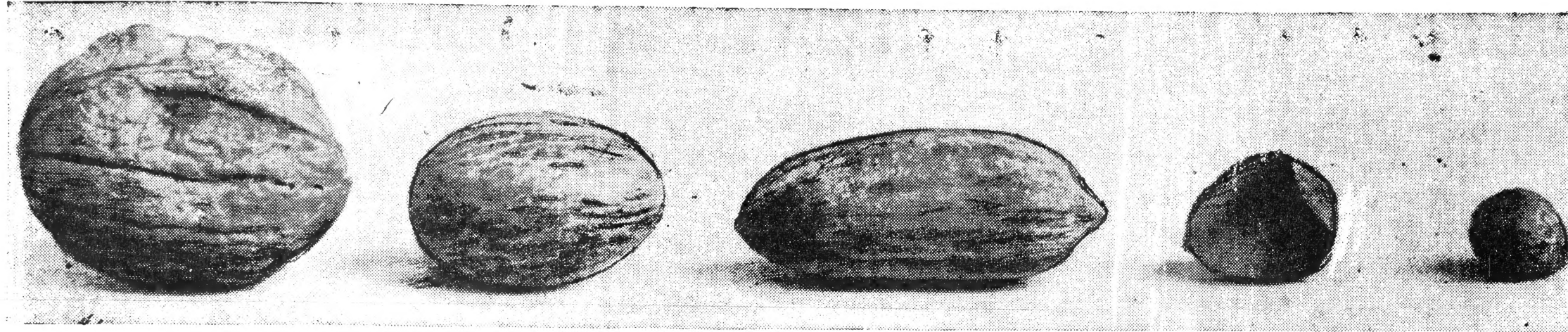
We are pioneers in the introduction of all varieties of hardy nut trees.

Our Canadian estate is located at Islington, a Suburb of Toronto, Ont.

Member Northern Nut Growers' Association, Inc.

If interested in nut trees you too should be a member. The association's extensive publications are most interesting and instructive. Hundreds of members are located throughout North America. Write us for details. Our nurseries are located 8½ miles northeast of Hillsdale, Michigan or 3½ miles southeast of North Adams, Michigan, 820 Mauck Road.

Michigan Soil and Climate Suited to Wide Nut-Tree Culture



Experiments Prove Trees Will Thrive

Former Resident of Michigan Grows 300 Varieties of Nuts on Ontario Reserve

By ALBERT STOLL, JR.

Near the little town of Islington, Ontario, not far from Toronto, George Hebdan Corsan, a former Michigan resident, has been carrying on experiments in the culture of nut trees that perhaps is without parallel in this country. It is unique in that he has succeeded in growing exotic nuts never before attempted, and through grafting and cross fertilization has produced numerous hybrids. Corsan at one time had charge of the Kesteg Migratory Bird Sanctuary, near Battle Creek, and had carried on a number of experiments in nut tree culture there. Twenty years ago he purchased 20 acres of fertile land just out of Islington, placed it under the charge of an assistant and started planting nut trees on an extensive scale.

Today his results of 20 years of experimentation has brought him over 300 different kinds of nuts, most of them highly palatable and easy to raise on the type of land found in Michigan south of the Saginaw-Muskegon line.

RAISES SEEDLINGS

In addition to nut tree planting Corsan also conducts his own tree nursery where the small seedlings are raised for his plantations. One year this nursery produced 22,000 black walnut, 4,000 Circassian walnuts and 2,000 giant hickory seedlings, many of which were disposed of commercially to those interested in tree culture.

In planting the nuts themselves to produce trees, Corsan says that they should first be stratified by placing them in wet hay or moss on the ground in fall and planting them in spring. In sandy soil they should be placed at least two inches underground, but in rich soil one inch is sufficient.

"Experimenting in crossing different varieties has produced some interesting results," said Corsan. "For instance, the native black walnut crossed with the English walnut should have produced a fine nut, but instead I only got a poor meated nut. One of my finest flavored nuts is the Japanese heartnut, producing a single meat. I have the finest butternut flavor imaginable."

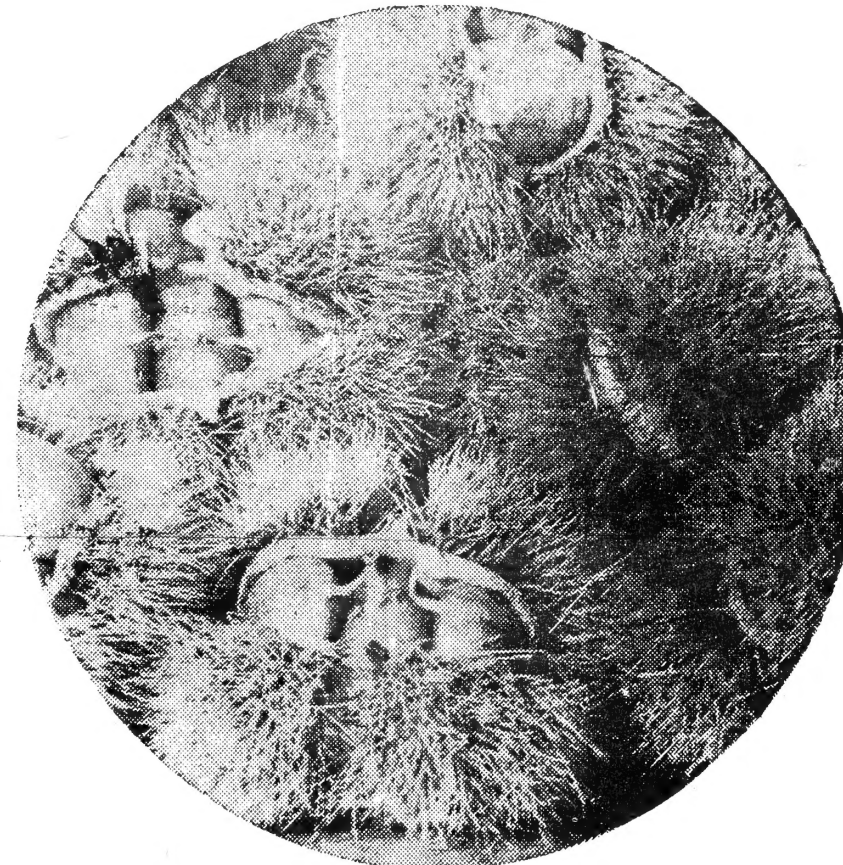
I have one tree upon which 12 different varieties of nuts are growing. This was produced through grafting. My shortest-lived tree is the hard-shelled almond which rarely lasts over 30 years, while the Chinese hazel will live and produce for as long as 400 years, reaching a height of 200 feet. Likewise, the Circassian walnut will live for 250 years, and grows from 75 to 125 feet high.

KIND OF SOIL

When asked just what kind of soil was best suited to nut culture Corsan said: "Some want a lime soil, other highly acid. This can be determined through experimentation. I have found that the American chestnut will not live in any kind of soil, for it seems destined to die of the chestnut blight shortly after it gets a start. But the oriental varieties will do well here. I also have been able to produce 12 varieties of pine nuts and all are highly palatable."

Corsan has gathered his seeds from all over the world, and just as soon as he hears of a strange nut off goes his order for seed stock.

"Nut tree culture has been neglected in the past," says Corsan, "but there is no reason why this should hold true today. The product always brings good prices, and it is an important item of food. Any one desiring any interesting and profitable undertaking can't go wrong taking up nut tree culture," he concluded.



Above: Some of the nuts produced at Islington, Ont., by George Hebdan Corsan. They are all exact size. First, the Carpathian Giant Circassian Walnut. Second, the river bottom hickory. Third, the hican, a cross between the hickory and pecan. Fourth, the filbert and fifth, the tree hazel. Below is a cluster of Chinese sweet chestnuts. This chestnut does well in America while our native is subject to blight.

Japanese walnuts produced by Corsan at his experiment station. Note the tropical-like foliage and the heavy fruit clusters.

Nut Trees for Michigan



Corsan transplanting a three-year-old Circassian walnut tree grown on his Islington, Ont., farm from Russian seed.



George H. Corsan points with his pruning shears to where a Circassian English walnut tree has been grafted to a black walnut tree. Corsan calls shade trees "weed trees" because "all they produce are leaves and a poor quality of wood. Nut trees," he adds, "are beautiful, give shade, furnish an easily marketable crop and produce valuable wood when through bearing."

Giant Circassian and hickory nuts grown on Corsan's farm.



By Russell Gore

HOPE for some of Michigan's "Ten million idle acres" of former pine-lands is held out by the experimental planting in the southern part of this state of exotic nut trees usually associated with warmer climes.

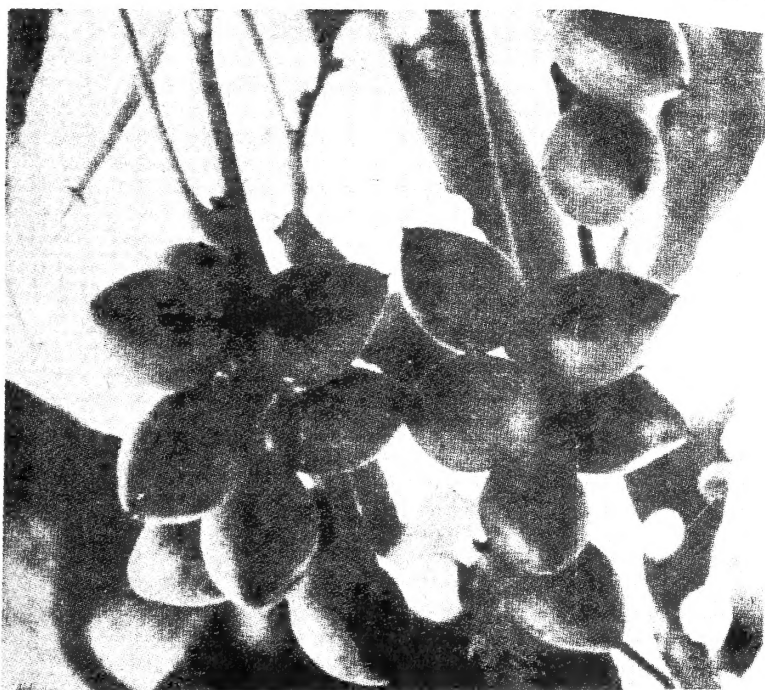
Special attention is being paid to the paper-shelled English walnut that forms so large a part of California's nut crop. Pecans, pawpaws, Japanese heartnuts and even persimmons are among the many varieties being planted both on farms and estates and at the University of Michigan arboretum.

Preliminary experimental work, covering a period of 20 years, has been done by George Hebden Corsan, former Michigan resident, in his nut plantation at Islington, near Toronto, Ont. Here, in a climate similar to that of Michigan below Saginaw on the east and Muskegon on the west, he has produced more than 300 varieties of nuts.

Prominent among Corsan's exotics is the paper-shelled English walnut, the Circassian. This tree heretofore has taken many years to mature. But Corsan has evolved a variety that grows from seed to bearing stage in from six to seven years, and matures even more rapidly when grafted on the native black walnut of Michigan woods. It is the only one of the 110 named varieties that can be adapted to northern climes.

Another exotic is known as the "Hican," a southern pecan grafted on the native hickory. Its nuts are sweeter because ripened by frost. An Asiatic being introduced here is the blight-resistant Chinese chestnut.

Corsan, swimming instructor for all California Army, Navy and Aviation camps during the World War, and later for the national Y. M. C. A., studied trees and birds as a hobby. A lecture he delivered before a Battle Creek audience inspired W. K. Kellogg to create the Bird Sanctuary now operated under his name by the State of Michigan. Corsan planted, stocked and for five years managed the sanctuary. In June, 1931, he established a bird sanctuary on the San Gabriel River in California.



Japanese heartnuts, much like our butternuts. The tree grows very fast.



A burr full of Chinese sweet chestnuts.



The famous Asiatic tree hazel, a very hardy tree that will grow from 120 to 200 feet high. The nuts are larger than native hazel nuts. "Michigan once had many nut trees," says Corsan. "They were cut down to make ax handles and whifle-trees. But they can, and should, be reintroduced."

This tree is nine years old.